

KAK

29 March 1957

RHB

Information Bulletin on the NIS
as proposed by State

1. In connection with Dan Clinton's desire to send out an information bulletin on the NIS, I think there is a need for something of this sort as reports reaching us certainly indicate that there are many individuals in foreign stations who have little or no knowledge of the NIS. [REDACTED] oral report to you pointed up this situation.

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2. However, I think it would be a mistake to downgrade the NIS outline, and possibly paraphrased portions of the outline guide, to permit dissemination of such a bulletin without a security classification. Restricting it to Official Use Only is no safeguard against the bulletin falling into the hands of unauthorized persons, including foreign nationals. In fact, I think it must be accepted as a fact that it will fall into such hands, which would disclose the scope and format of the NIS down to individual sections. While this would not provide any substantive data on any one individual country, it would reveal what information we consider essential to national security in the field of basic intelligence; and more importantly, it would pinpoint targets for foreign espionage services by giving the number of the NIS sections in which any category of information would be found. In my opinion we shouldn't even reveal chapter number and coverage under less than a CONFIDENTIAL classification.

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3. It is my feeling that only those persons who are security cleared for access to the NIS should be given any detailed information concerning the program, and a bulletin classified CONFIDENTIAL should reach all those who have need to know. Granted that an unclassified bulletin might be a convenient reference document for some cleared people-- something which they can stick in their desks and forget until some need arises requiring its use--I don't think this benefit to such people warrants relaxation of security to a degree where uncleared people at all levels of government would have access to detailed information on a National Intelligence Program.

4. If any bulletin is sent out without classification, I think it should be very general in character. I don't think there is a real need for it, but if one is sent out I suggest that the statement of the Clark Task Force be used with possibly some little elaboration on the topical coverage as outlined in the first paragraph of the draft Dan Clinton turned in. Then stress could be laid on the use and benefit aspects.